

03500.017916

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Kaitlin S. Joerger
SHINSUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 3653
Application No.: 10/781,810	)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 3940
Filed: February 20, 2004	)	
	:	
For: SHEET TRANSPORT APPARATUS	)	October 15, 2007
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND REFERENCES CITED THEREIN

Sir:

Applicants, having received a Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due dated September 27, 2007, respectfully request consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and reference cited therein, which was filed on February 22, 2007, together with an RCE and Preliminary Amendment which was in response to the Official Action dated November 22, 2006. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Form PTO-1449, as filed, and the Electronic Acknowledgment Receipt are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. It is respectfully requested that the Form PTO-1449 be initialed, signifying the Examiner's

consideration of the references cited therein, and returned to Applicants' undersigned representative at the earliest convenience of the Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence A. Stahl/

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Lawrence A. Stahl  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 30,110

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LAS:eyw

FCIS\_WS 1662315v1

## Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

<b>EFS ID:</b>	1536581
<b>Application Number:</b>	10781810
<b>International Application Number:</b>	
<b>Confirmation Number:</b>	3940
<b>Title of Invention:</b>	Sheet transport apparatus and image forming apparatus
<b>First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:</b>	Shinsuke Kobayashi
<b>Customer Number:</b>	5514
<b>Filer:</b>	Lawrence A. Stahl/Talaya Myers
<b>Filer Authorized By:</b>	Lawrence A. Stahl
<b>Attorney Docket Number:</b>	03500.017916
<b>Receipt Date:</b>	22-FEB-2007
<b>Filing Date:</b>	20-FEB-2004
<b>Time Stamp:</b>	15:23:33
<b>Application Type:</b>	Utility

### Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 790
RAM confirmation Number	168
Deposit Account	503939

### File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
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1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	03500_017916_RCE.pdf	8474	no	1
<b>Warnings:</b>					
This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.					
<b>Information:</b>					
2		03500_017916_Preliminary_Amendment.pdf	22075	yes	9
	<b>Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description</b>				
	<b>Document Description</b>		<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	
	Preliminary Amendment		1	1	
	Claims		2	5	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		6	9	
<b>Warnings:</b>					
<b>Information:</b>					
3	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed	03500_017916_IDS.pdf	10830	no	3
<b>Warnings:</b>					
<b>Information:</b>					
This is not an USPTO supplied IDS fillable form					
4	Foreign Reference	JP_05_147764.pdf	651405	no	8
<b>Warnings:</b>					
<b>Information:</b>					
5	Foreign Reference	JP_2002_316733.pdf	557274	no	7
<b>Warnings:</b>					
<b>Information:</b>					
6	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8181	no	2
<b>Warnings:</b>					
<b>Information:</b>					
<b>Total Files Size (in bytes):</b>			1258239		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

**New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111**

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

**National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371**

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

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For: SHEET TRANSPORT APPARATUS	)	February 22, 2007
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	

**Mail Stop RCE**  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed Japanese references, together with English-language Abstracts therefor, is also enclosed.

JP 2002-316733 has been cited for its disclosure of a curved path. However, this reference is not understood to teach or suggest the invention as recited in each of the independent claims.

JP 5-147764 discloses to nip an envelope fed out by a pair of rollers to expel air from inside the envelope. In JP 5-147764, the pair of rollers squeezes the swelling portion,

but this will cause wrinkles in the envelope or even possibly break the envelope. The reference does not disclose, as recited in claim 11, at least the feature of a rotary member arranged away from the transport guide by a predetermined distance to adequately press the swelling portion occurring in the envelope. Nor does it disclose or suggest the feature of ribs as a regulation member to press a swelling portion in an envelope, as called for by claim 17. JP 5-147764 merely discloses a pair of rollers.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence A. Stahl/

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Attorney for Applicants

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LAS:cyw

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)  Date submitted to the PTO: February 22, 2007		ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.017916</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/781,810</b>			
		APPLICANT <b>SHINSUKE KOBAYASHI, ET AL.</b>					
		FILING DATE <b>February 20, 2004</b>		GROUP <b>3653</b>			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		<b>5-147764</b>	<b>06/15/1993</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
		<b>2002-316733</b>	<b>10/31/2002</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.